

# Farm Scoop



# NEWSLETTER

## January 2021

### Big Horn County FSA

408 Greybull Ave.  
Greybull, WY 82426  
Phone: 307-765-2689  
Fax: 855-415-3432  
Hours: 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

### County Executive Director:

Brenda Miller

### Program Technician:

Connie Werbelow

### Farm Loan:

Bill Morrison- Worland  
Tom Schambow- Powell

### County Committee:

Michael Rasmussen- Chairman  
Spencer Ellis- Vice-Chairman  
Martin Mercer- Member

### Next Committee Meeting:

March 9, 2021 1:30PM

## Message From Big Horn County FSA

Wow, spring is just around the corner and with this weather it's looks like planting could start before we know it this year. We have a batch of program signups going on now and want to make sure nobody misses out on program benefits that they are eligible for.

In this news release is information on the additional assistance made available under the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 1 & CFAP 2). Please take time to read through this article and contact our office if you feel you will be affected by these changes. Signup began January 19 and will run through **Feb 26, 2021**.

The Quality Loss Assistance program signup began January 6 and will continue through **March 5, 2021**. This program will assist producers who had production affected by the snowstorm October 9, 2019. Documentation is required to prove the affected production and affected price. Call our office for further details and to start your application process.

It's also that time of year again to complete your annual ARC/PLC signup. Deadline for the 2021 signup is **March 15, 2021**. This year you will be able to change your election if you would like or you may leave it the same as previously signed up. If you did not choose a multi-year signup option in 2018 you will need to contact our office to complete your application.

Our office is currently open, but our doors are locked due to the ongoing COVID-19. We have an option for signing your paperwork called Box/One Span that allows you to sign your paperwork electronically. This is a very simple process that only required you to have an email and a cell phone that we can send a text message with the authorization code. Next time you complete a signup over the phone with us ask us about this process.

## Big Horn County Farm Service Agency Announces County Committee Election Results

Big Horn County U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that County Committee elections are over and the ballots have been counted.

Spencer Ellis of Lovell was elected to represent local administrative area (LAA) #1

County committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver programs at the county level and work to serve the needs of local producers. All recently elected county committee members will take office in January 2021 and will be joining the existing committee. Every FSA office is required to have a county committee, which are made up of local farmers, ranchers and foresters elected by local producers.

County committee members impact the administration of FSA within a community by applying their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make important decisions on commodity support programs, conservation programs, indemnity and disaster programs, emergency programs and eligibility.

County committee members serve local producers through their decision making and help shape the culture of a local FSA office. They also ensure the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties and are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. Members conduct hearings and reviews as requested by the state committee, ensure underserved farmers, ranchers and foresters are fairly represented, make recommendations to the state committee on existing programs, monitor changes in farm programs and inform farmers of the purpose and provisions of FSA programs. They also assist with outreach and inform underserved producers, such as beginning farmers, ranchers and foresters, about FSA opportunities.

## USDA Offers Additional Assistance for Certain Producers Through Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing additional assistance through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), expanding eligibility for some agricultural producers and commodities as well as updating payments to accurately compensate some producers who already applied for the program. Producers who are now eligible and those who need to modify existing applications due to these updates can contact USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) between **Jan. 19 and Feb. 26**. Some of these changes are being made to align with the recently enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 while others are discretionary changes being made in response to ongoing evaluation of CFAP.

### Updated Payment Calculations for CFAP 2

- FSA has adjusted the sales commodities calculation to take into account crop year 2019 crop insurance indemnities, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program-Plus (WHIP+) payments to more accurately represent what a producer would have marketed if not for a cause of loss. This change impacts specialty crops (dry edible beans).

### CFAP 1 'Top-up' Payments for Swine

- FSA is providing an additional CFAP 1 inventory payment for swine to help producers who face continuing market disruptions from changes in U.S. meat consumption due to the pandemic. Swine producers with approved CFAP 1 applications will soon automatically receive an additional \$17 per head "top-up" payment.

## Enrollment Begins for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs for 2021

Agricultural producers can now make elections and enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2021 crop year. The signup period opened Tuesday, Oct. 13. These key U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) safety-net programs help producers weather fluctuations in either revenue or price for certain crops, and more than \$5 billion in payments are in the process of going out to producers who signed up for the 2019 crop year.

Enrollment for the 2021 crop year closes **March 15, 2021**.

**ARC** provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level.

**PLC** provides income support payments on historical base acres when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its reference price.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed, and wheat.

### 2021 Elections and Enrollment

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in crop-by-crop ARC-County or PLC, or ARC-Individual for the entire farm, for the 2021 crop year. Although election changes for 2021 are optional, enrollment (signed contract) is required for each year of the program. If a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2021, it will be necessary to sign a new contract.

If an election is not submitted by the deadline of March 15, 2021, the election defaults to the current election for crops on the farm from the prior crop year.

For crop years 2022 and 2023, producers will have an opportunity to make new elections during those signups. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.

## Quality Loss Assistance Now Available for Eligible Producers Affected by 2019 Natural Disasters

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that signup for the Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) Program will begin Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021. Funded by the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020, this new program provides assistance to producers who suffered eligible crop quality losses due to natural disasters occurring in 2019. The deadline to apply for QLA is Friday, **March 5, 2021**.

### Eligible Crops

Eligible crops include those for which federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is available. The early snowstorm in 2019 damaged dry edible bean and corn in Big Horn County.

Additionally, crops that were sold or in storage may be eligible; however, crops that were destroyed before harvest are not eligible. Crop quality losses occurring after harvest, due to deterioration in storage, or that could have been mitigated, are also not eligible.

Assistance is based on a producer's harvested affected production of an eligible crop, which must have had at least a 5% quality loss reflected through a quality discount.

### Applying for QLA

When applying, producers are asked to provide verifiable documentation to support claims of quality loss. For crops that have been sold, grading must have been completed within 30 days of harvest.

Some acceptable forms of documentation include sales receipts from buyers, settlement sheets, truck or warehouse scale tickets, written sales contracts, similar records that represent actual and specific quality loss information.

### Future Insurance Coverage Requirements

All producers receiving QLA Program payments are required to purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage for the next two available crop years at the 60% coverage level or higher.



## 2021 Customer Calendar

### Farm Service Agency

#### Farm Programs

- Agricultural Risk & Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC)
- Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)
- Commodity Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
- Quality Loss Adjustment Program (QLA)

#### Farm Loans—No Application Deadlines

- Beginning Farmer & Rancher Loans
- Emergency Loans (Time Sensitive)
- Farm Operating Loans (Direct and Guaranteed)
- Farm Ownership Loans (Direct and Guaranteed)
- Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)
- EZ Guarantee and Microloans
- SDA (Women/Minority) Farmer & Rancher Loans
- Youth Loans

#### Important Links

Farmers.gov - <https://www.farmers.gov/>

FSA FencePost - <http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/>

USDA Blogs - <http://blogs.usda.gov/>

#### Big Horn County Farm Service Agency

408 Greybull Ave.  
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307-765-2689 X2

#### LFP:

- Within 30 days after the end of the year in which the grazing loss occurred – submit Application for Payment and supporting documentation

#### LIP:

- Within 30 days of noticing Livestock loss or injury – Submit Notice of Loss
- Within 60 days after the end the year in which loss or injury occurred– Submit Application for Payment

#### ELAP:

- Within 30 days of livestock feed or pasture losses/issues due to extreme weather – Submit Notice of Loss
- Within 60 days after the end the year in which loss occurred– Submit Application for Payment

#### MAL/LDP Availability (from harvest to the below deadline):

- January 31 - Wool, Mohair and LDP only for Unshorn Pelts
- March 31 - Barley, Canola, Flaxseed, Honey, Oats, Rapeseed, Sesame seed and Wheat
- May 31 - Corn, Dry peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils, Mustard seed, Safflower, Small chickpeas, Large chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower seed

#### NAP:

- December 1 – All perennial grasses, alfalfa, clover, mixed forage, and honey
- March 15 – Hemp
- April 1 – All spring seeded crops
- Within 15 days of crop loss – Submit Notice of Loss
- November 15 (varies by crop) – Final day to submit Application for Payment

Questions? Contact your local FSA office.

A directory of USDA Service Centers can be found online at [offices.usda.gov](https://offices.usda.gov)

**GovDelivery Email & SMS Text Updates:** Contact your local FSA office ask how you can receive important FSA updates and reminders by email and SMS text subscriptions.

**Have you moved? Changed bank accounts?** Contact your local FSA to update your records.

USDA Farm Service Agency  
Big Horn County FSA Office  
408 Greybull Ave.  
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### Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

The Farm Loan team in Washakie and Park Counties are already working on operating loans for spring 2021 and asks potential borrowers to submit their requests early so they can be timely processed. The farm loan team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants.

FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional **farm operating and farm ownership loans** can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.

**Microloans** are a simplified loan program that will provide up to \$50,000 for both Farm Ownership and Operating Microloans to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new operation, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation. Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.

Other types of loans available include:

**Marketing Assistance Loans** allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

**Farm Storage Facility Loans** can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures, and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Brenda Miller at 307-765-2689 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).